

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
March 1, 2016
Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 Adams Street
4:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Hartman, David Nennig, Lynn Austin, Jim O'Rourke, Muriel Austin

Chairman Paul Hartman called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Lynn Austin refreshed the committee regarding issues discussed last month. The committee viewed the donated Beautification Committee logo created by Nine3Nine Creative and agreed it looked nice. There was a suggestion to write and thank Nine3Nine Creative for their work. Lynn Austin made a motion to adopt the new logo for the Mayor's Beautification Committee, seconded by Muriel Austin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dave Nennig mentioned logos created in the past by a City of Green Bay consultant, for April Fools Day (specifically one: "Yahay Green Bay" that showed an image of perch).

Jim O'Rourke and Lynn Austin discussed various historic railroad maps showing our early community and the Fort Howard site, specifically those from the Chicago Northwestern Railroad Museum. Jim also mentioned a project supporting the inclusion of "educational greenspace" within commercial development plans for the Fort Howard site (specifically while it was being considered for a new Walmart store); he said that this project had been presented to the Mayor's office. Dialogue ensued.

Lynn Austin showed a website she discovered called *RipeNear[dot]me*, which was created for the public to easily locate homegrown/locally-grown fruit and produce in communities worldwide. Qualifying produce can be listed as free or for sale, and private or public. Committee members mentioned public trees within the City (such as pear, mulberry, and apple trees) that could be posted. Other suggestions included other abundant trees and plants, such as nut-bearing trees, rhubarb, and zucchini. Dave Nennig also mentioned that the City Parks Department cleans out perennials every year and takes them to the Yard Waste Center – these could also be listed to give away.

Regarding this, Paul Hartman will coordinate. David Nennig and Lynn Austin will contact City of Green Bay staff, Billie Jo Horsens, and Noel Halvorsen, Chairman of the Mayor's Neighborhood Leadership Council. Jim O'Rourke will take the movement to the surrounding communities.

Dave Nennig mentioned a website he'd discovered which is based around sharing green plants in spring. He said he will share the site link with other committee members.

Lynn brought copies of a letter sent out by the Historic Preservation Commission regarding a "meet and greet" for history enthusiasts. Dave Nennig confirmed that the Historic Preservation Commission is holding a gathering for any individuals with interest or knowledge on the Fort Howard house on Maple Street, including sketches, maps, or pictures. She said she would not be attending due to problems with the Commission in the past; however, she said that other Beautification Committee members might be willing to go.

Jim O'Rourke said that Kevin Cullen, the Assistant Curator for the Neville Museum, will be using ground-penetrating radar to analyze the grounds of the Fort Howard site. Jim said that Mr. Cullen's education is in archeology. The Historic Preservation Commission is interested in physical evidence as well as historic stories, specifically about Thomas Carron. Lynn said that written viewpoints from Great Lakes Indians are quite rare; Great Lakes Indians spoke the language of their own tribes as their first language, as well as other local indigenous languages, and they also spoke French, but generally did not use English as a secondary language like the Eastern Tribes who intermarried with the English and Dutch. She said Andrew Blackbird's "History of the Ottawa and Ojibwa" is one of the few examples of an authentic Indian history account written in English by a hereditary tribal leader. She also shared an excerpt from an educational document regarding the "elements of literature," specifically regarding point-of-view.

When determining a story's point of view these questions need to be asked:

- 1. Who is telling the story?*
- 2. How much does this narrator know and understand?*
- 3. How much does this narrator want me to know?*
- 4. Can I trust this narrator?*
- 5. In what ways would the story be different if someone else were telling it?*

Lynn reiterated that the Labaye.org website does not interpret history and gives no point of view itself. At this time, other than posting Andrew Blackbird's "History of the Ottawa and Ojibwa," the site has not reached the point where its focus turns to documents primarily from the American Indian point-of-view; the main body of documents so far consists of those written by Euro-American English speakers. Some written accounts were compiled from the statements of Indian and Métis people, who were interviewed concerning their memories and experiences. She observed that the Historic Preservation Commission is searching for a certain point of view consistent with the ethnic background of the Commission members. Their mandate is to preserve buildings, which is consistent with the Euro-American culture. The original historic culture of this area valued places and people, but were not primarily concerned with buildings.

She said that the LaBaye Project might be willing to consider purchasing and moving the Maple Street house to use as an initial location for the Indian and Metis Museum, after the local history groups are no longer involved; however, the house wouldn't need to remain a museum permanently. If the house was situated on its original site, the designation of Fort Howard stockade site (according to the National Park Service) would change from an archeological site to one with an original building still in existence on-site. Jim O'Rourke said that the Neville archeologist may be able to identify the original locations via footprints of the original

foundations and find where the hospital was. Then the marker stone on Chestnut Street could be moved to the original fort site, with a new plaque. Lynn pointed out that would likely cause more confusion in the future, since the building has already been moved (and the marker was made for that purpose), and suggested it remain where it currently is and a new one should be made if one is needed for the original hospital location. She has an original photo of the hospital, located through the placement of trees and a stream. She indicated that the Labaye Project has submitted a proposal to the Cofrin Family's 1923 Fund, and she will know the outcome by March 16. If the site receives funding, its focus will turn to the website's Timeline of History and Natural History sections, as well as historical map overlays.

Paul Hartman said that it will not be possible to tap the Baird Creek sugar maples this year; there has not been enough time to prepare, because of the early mild weather. The project will require pre-planning, and knowledgeable people in Brown County who are willing and have the time to commit. Lynn Austin knows a local area resident who does maple sugar-tapping and bee-keeping, however he may be busy with his own projects at the time (this is a potential problem with professionals). Dave Nennig said that they do similar work at Barkhausen and also at Fallen Timbers.

Dave mentioned the currently progressing demolition of the buildings along the East River on the 1300 block of Main Street. He also mentioned developments regarding the planning and construction of the new Festival Foods building and Kwik Trip gas station on University Avenue.

The meeting concluded at 5:15 PM. Next month's meeting is scheduled for April 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel Austin